

AGENDA FOR A BETTER COMMUNITY

For several years national, state and local governments have addressed themselves to the problem of changing cities! We feel that the Weequahic section, and the City of Newark, is a good place in which to live and to work. We find that it offers us advantages in that we reside close to the center of our varied economic, social, cultural, and religious activities.

For Weequahic and Newark to continue to be the kind of community that we have known in the past, we feel that it is important to insure stability. Neighborhoods must be maintained--not to exclusion of any group or groups--but to the exclusion of excessive flux and physical deterioration. Efforts must be made to create a community spirit of unity among all the residents and our neighborhoods, so that both those who have lived in an area for many years, and those who have recently moved into it may work together for the welfare of the community.

Now we, as a citizens group, wish to bring together the representatives of the institutions and organizations of our community in order to attain these objectives more effectively.

In consonance with the American goal that various ethnic, racial and religious groups can live together in harmony, we believe that the following can be achieved through the joint responsibility and cooperation of all the elements of the committee working towards their common cause. This will be done through community education and action.

1. EDUCATION: The problem of Education in America is not merely a local issue. It is a life and death struggle in our society to create good schools for our children. Recognizing that more adults each year become concerned with this problem, and often select a place in which to live on the basis of the school system of the community, we look upon top flight school facilities as our major concern. We are proud of the past achievements of our Weequahic schools, and our efforts will be dedicated to doing what we can do as citizens to make sure that the future will be even brighter.

2. HOUSING: The maintenance of a community depends greatly on the housing offered to its citizens. Weequahic has always been a residential community. We are concerned that it should continue to be so, and that sound housing and zoning regulations be established and effectively maintained. We deplore the actions of those who use fear and prejudice as a device to create panic sales which lead to the disruption of the normal life of our community.

3. MUNICIPAL RESPONSIBILITY: We believe that the city and its officials have a responsibility to assure the best in urban redevelopment, city parks, police protection, street care, refuse collection, and such other matters that concern the city's responsibility to making our neighborhood a better place in which to live.

4. CULTURAL ENRICHMENT: We feel that there ^{are} are opportunities to increase the level of culture of our city. ~~We~~ look with favor, therefore, at the cultural efforts made in the last few years by many civic groups. We would like to see more cultural events, some of them conducted in our own neighborhood as well as the other neighborhoods of our city, *to promote the community spirit and cooperation*

WITH THIS FOUR POINT PROGRAM OF DISCUSSION AND ACTION WE HOPE TO MAKE OUR OWN CONTRIBUTION TO THE CONTINUING EFFORT OF MAKING NEWARK A STILL BETTER PLACE IN WHICH TO LIVE AND WORK.

July 20, 1962